

Knox (Ralph) TO THE *Supl* 19
of 1732 c. 36 (2)
Honourable the Commons of Great Britain,
in Parliament assembled.

The humble PETITION of the several Merchants and Traders in the City of L O N D O N, whose Names are hereunder subscribed ;

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners have observed, by the Votes of this Honourable House, that a Bill hath been brought into Parliament, to permit Persons, professing the *Jewish* Religion, to be naturalized by Parliament ; and your Petitioners being of Opinion, that the passing the said Bill into a Law may encourage Persons of Wealth and Substance to remove with their Effects from foreign Parts into this Kingdom, and increase the Commerce and Credit of this Nation ;

Your Petitioners most humbly pray this Honourable House, that this Bill may pass into a Law. And your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, shall ever pray, &c. &c. &c.

Ralph Knox,
James Adams,
Theodore Jacobson,
Bartholomew Burton,
John Bance,
John Tucker,
Alexander Sheafe,
Robert Marsh,
Edmond Boehm,
William Dixwell Grimes,
William Trafer,
John Peter Blaquier,
James Dowglas,
Isaac Newton,
Hugh Ross,
John Raymond,
William Vigor,
Henry Crab Boulton,
Christopher Pullin,
Herman M—yer,
Peter Deschamps, junior,
Fran. Theophilus Guileau,
Lyde Brown,
John Julian,
John Spiker,
James Bourdieu,
Richard Giddatt, junior,
Peter Abraham Licard,
William Bellamy,
Anthony Andre,
Claude Abert,
Samuel Plumbe,
John Deschamps,
Peter Gausson, junior,
Thomas Tierney,

Charles Lindigreen,
Joseph Fowlke,
Willoughby Merchant,
Peter Saulnier,
Henry Hubert,
William Anderson,
John Buchannan,
Robert Turner,
Samuel Dufresnay,
P. Simond,
John Anthony Lullin,
Peter Thomegay,
Thomas Hyam,
Francis Cruzefon,
Morton Rochliff,
Giddison Liglize,
John Fomblanque,
William Toutelin Merchant,
John Shakespear,
Samuel Courtald,
Peter Castlefranc,
Joshua Van Neck,
Thomas Walpole,
Daniel Oliver,
John Rooke,
William Black,
Edward Dixon,
Benjamin Mee,
James Henhill,
Henry Voght,
Andrew Guetryze,
Thomas Vigne,
John Van Hemeret,
John Lidderdale,

Richard Chauncey,
Roger Drake,
Christopher Burrow,
William Mabbott,
M. Impey,
Thomas Rous,
William Braund,
Stephen Law,
William Rider,
Walter Vane,
Nathaniel Paice,
Brice Fisher,
Thomas Le Blaine,
Richard Jackson,
Francis Taquier,
John Torriano,
John Edwards,
George Rooke,
Henry Shiffner,
John Bush,
Wolfort Van Hemeret,
Nicholas Crisp,
William Wilberforce, junior,
John Shiffner,
Peter Gausser,
Henry Raper,
Charles Le Blon,
Francis Duval,
R. Sutton Marsh,
R. Ofwald,
Roger Manwairing,
Peter Bartholomew Julian,
Philip Hardel.

In all 102.

*An AFFIDAVIT, serving to detect that IMPOSTER,
HENRY SIMONS, the Polish JEW.*

JACOB REE, a Native of the Kingdom of *Poland*,
of the City of *Rotterdam* in the Province of *Holland*,
Linguist and Interpreter, a JEW, and of the Tribe
of *Benjamin*,

Maketh Oath,

THAT he this Deponent hath known HENRY SIMONS, the *Polish Jew*,
Eight or Nine Years, the very same *Henry Simons*, who swore that he was
robbed by *Joseph Goddard*, of *Cranford-bridge*, in the County of *Middlesex*,
Innholder; who had prosecuted the said *Goddard* for the same, at *Justice Hall* in
the *Old Baily*, where the said *Goddard* was Acquitted of such pretended Robbery,
on or about the 16th Day of *October*, 1751, as this Deponent is informed, and
verily believes.

On which Trial of the said *Joseph Goddard*, the said *Henry Simons* swore, as by
the Sessions Paper appears,

“ That he the said HENRY SIMONS was a Merchant—That he was just come
“ from Poland—That he came to buy Watches and Cloaths—That he brought over
“ with him 558 Ducats in Gold—That 554 of them were in a Girdle which he
“ wore about him—That he set out from London to Bristol, lay at Goddard’s
“ House—That in the Night Goddard robbed him, and by Force took from
“ him the said 554 Ducats—That he returned to London, and complained to
“ HYAM LEVI, a Merchant, of this Robbery, of whom he had bespoke
“ Watches to the Value of 100 l. and he had offered, to this same Merchant
“ 40 l. for some old Cloaths that belonged to the Princess of Wales, which were
“ to be for the Lady of Chancellor CORRONY, and which he was to have pai
“ for on his Return from Bristol—That he himself had been a Merchant Ten
“ Years—That only 100 of these Ducats were his own—That 350 of them were
“ the Property of the said Chancellor CORRONY *, a Governor in Poland, and
“ the rest belonged to a Gentleman, named Gobernator; and more to the said
“ Purpose did the said HENRY SIMONS Swear, as appears not only to this De-
“ ponent by the said Sessions Paper, but as he has been told by several Jews, and
“ other Persons, who said they were present at the said Trial.

All which Evidence of the said HENRY SIMONS (except that might be true, that
he lay at the said *Goddard*’s House on the Night he swore the said pretended Rob-
bery was committed) this Deponent believes the whole to be false, and calculated
for bad and wicked Purposes; that so far from the said HENRY SIMONS being a Mer-
chant, and having in his Possession 554 Ducats, this Deponent POSITIVELY swears,
that the said HENRY SIMONS, from his Childhood, as this Deponent has been in-
formed and believes, has been a wandering Beggar; this Deponent having seen him
begging in the Streets in a great Number of Cities and Towns in *Germany*, *Holland*,
and other Parts, for at least seven Years past, where this Deponent’s Business, as an
Interpreter, has called him; and, particularly, he met the said HENRY SIMONS at
Brandenbourg in *Germany*, and relieved him with Alms, but a few Weeks before

* Chancellor *Corrony* is CROWN CHANCEL-
LOR of POLAND; Application has been made
by a Merchant at *Dantzick* to his Secretary at *War-
saw*, to know if this be true; who assures, that the
Chancellor knows not, nor ever heard of any such
Person as HENRY SIMONS a Jew; and that all

he had sworn which relates to the Chancellor is all
a made-up Story, and has not the least Shadow of
Truth; and that the said SIMONS is a CHEAT
and IMPOSTOR. Vide Vouchers in Mr. *Ashley*’s
Possession.

the said HENRY SIMONS came over into England in September 1751. And when this Deponent so relieved the said HENRY SIMONS, he, the said HENRY SIMONS informed this Deponent, that he had not been in Poland for two or three Years before that Time, because his Friends were unable to maintain him, and which this Deponent knew very well to be true; and that the said HENRY SIMONS then told this Deponent, that there were such a Number of Poor Jews in Poland, that the Rich ones were not able to support them; on which Account, the said HENRY SIMONS, and many others, were obliged to quit Poland, to beg for a Maintenance among the Rich Jews, and others, in other Countries; which this Deponent knew also to be true; and particularly so, that the said HENRY SIMONS was sent out of Poland to get a Support by begging in other Countries, the said HENRY SIMONS having a *Certification, or Recommendation from the Jews in Poland for that Purpose.*

And this Deponent farther saith, That about two or three Weeks after he had so as aforesaid seen the said SIMONS in Germany, and had given him Alms, this Deponent saw the said SIMONS receive Alms from many Persons, both Jews and Christians, at which Time this Deponent relieved him with Alms, believing the said SIMONS then to be, and now is, a real Beggar, and a miserable Object; for that some Time in the Beginning of the said Month of September, 1751, just before the said HENRY SIMONS's coming to England, he told this Deponent what good Success he had had by begging, and shew'd this Deponent three Ducats in Gold, and some small Matter of Silver, which he then declared was all he had; and this Deponent is persuaded, in his Conscience, that if the said HENRY SIMONS had any more Money, he would have been proud to have shewn it to this Deponent; and then he told this Deponent, that he would go to ENGLAND, to see what he could GET there.

And this Deponent farther saith, positively, That the said HENRY SIMONS, the Vagabond Begging Jew, this Deponent had seen in Germany, Holland, and other Places abroad, begging as aforesaid, is the very same identical HENRY SIMONS who swore the said pretended Robbery against the said Mr. Goddard; this Deponent having since his Arrival in England seen the said Henry Simons, who, on seeing this Deponent, avoided him, and, for Fear of a Discovery of his Imposture and Villainy, has quitted this Kingdom, as this Deponent is informed and verily believes.

And this Deponent farther saith, That another Reason that this Deponent has for believing, that all the said Henry Simons swore at the Trial of the said Joseph Goddard, (except as before excepted) was false, and calculated for base and wicked Purposes, is, for this Deponent, since his last coming into England, has enquired after HYAM LEVI, the pretended MERCHANT, of whom the said Henry Simons swore he had bespoke Watches to the Value of 100*l.* and old Cloaths Value 40*l.* late the Princess of Wales's, &c. And, on such Enquiry, this Deponent finds the said HYAM LEVI to be a Jew Penny Barber in Duke's Place, a poor miserable Wretch, and who assumed the Name of a MERCHANT to endeavour to impose on the World, and to carry the wicked Schemes of the said Henry Simons into Execution. And as to what the said Henry Simons swore about his being sent over by Chancellor Corrony with 350 Ducats to buy Watches and old Cloaths for his Lady, this Deponent has the utmost Reason to think every Part of this Evidence to be false; because the said CHANCELLOR AND GOVERNOR CORRONY is a very great and a rich Man, and, by Repute, a great and bitter Enemy to all JEWS; this Deponent therefore thinks, that he would neither suffer his Lady to wear old Cloaths, nor employ any JEW whatsoever to negotiate any Concerns of his, much more such a Vagabond as HENRY SIMONS.

And this Deponent farther saith, That he had Information of these Transactions while he was at Rotterdam, as also the Proceedings which the JEWS in ENGLAND had carried on against Mr. Ashley*, of London, Brandy and Wine Merchant, for and on Account of his causing the said HENRY SIMONS to be apprehended for a PERJURY, of which the said Simons stood indicted, for swearing the said Robbery against the said Goddard. And this Deponent farther heard, that when the said Simons was so apprehended, and in Custody, that he put Money into the said Mr. Ashley's Pocket, and then would have sworn a Robbery against him. And that a Set of RICH, WICKED, and REVENGEFUL JEWS in England had so interested themselves, as to make the said Simons's Case a common Cause; and for their so doing, they alledged, that what they did was in Order to DETER ALL CHRISTIANS EVERY WHERE FROM CONCERNING THEMSELVES WITH ANY HEBREW, ON ANY AC-

* Mr. Ashley has been put to more than ONE THOUSAND POUNDS Expence, by the JEWS, on this Occasion.

COUNT WHATSOEVER ; and that he also heard, that there had been no less than five several Trials in the Courts of Justice in *England* on this *Simons's* Account *.

And that the said Set of such *Wicked, Rich and Revengeful* Jews had expended upwards of THREE THOUSAND POUNDS in defending the said SIMONS, and prosecuting the said Mr. *Ashley* †.

And this Deponent saith, That on hearing of those most extraordinary Transactions, all which, on the strictest Examination, he found to be true, and well knowing the POVERTY of the said *Simons*, he, this Deponent, was greatly alarmed, as well as all the Jews in *Holland and Germany*, who knew the said *Simons*, and had seen him but so little a Time before Begging, Tumbling, Dancing, and Playing Pranks || in the Streets in those Parts, and who knew he had no other Way of Business or Living, but by Begging; which gave this Deponent, and Hundreds of other Jews and others, the strongest Reason to imagine, that the said SIMONS was, with the Assistance of the said Set of Rich Jews in *England*, carrying on very wicked and REVENGEFUL Schemes in defending him against the Prosecutions of the Persons whom he had so greatly injured, and assisting him, at so vast an Expence, in the Proceedings against Mr. *Ashley*, for endeavouring to bring the said SIMONS to Justice.

And this Deponent farther saith, That hearing of all these the foregoing Transactions, and being so well acquainted with the POVERTY and Circumstances of the said *Henry Simons*, he had the strongest Reason to suspect he never was in Possession of any Thing like such a Sum of Money as he swore to be robbed of by the said *Goddard*; and that the whole Evidence given by the said *Simons*, in Relation thereto, was all false, in order to countenance some base Fraud or Imposition; which gave this Deponent so much Uneasiness, that he could not rest satisfied in his Conscience, till he came over to *England* to make this Discovery and Affidavit, which, as an honest Man, and an honest Jew, he thought it his Duty so to do.

Sworn at my Chambers in
Serjeant's Inn, the 23d of
January, 1754, before me,

M. Foster.

JACOB REE,

N. B. There are eleven other Affidavits, in Confirmation of the Truth of Mr. *Ree's*, which may be seen and read at Mr. *Ashley's*, on *Ludgate Hill*.

* First, At the *Old Baily*, in *October Sessions*, 1751, the Trial of *Joseph Goddard*, for a pretended Robbery of the said *Simons*, who, for the false Evidence he there gave, was indicted for PERJURY.

Second, At the *King's Bench Bar*, in *Hilary Term*, 1751-2, the said *Henry Simons* was tried for the said PERJURY.

Third, At *Chelmsford Lent Assizes*, 1751-2, when and where the said *Simons* was tried and found GUILTY of a Capital Misdemeanor, for putting Money into Mr. *Ashley's* Pocket, in Order to swear a Robbery against him.

Fourth, At *Guildhall, London*, the 9th Day of *July*, 1752, before the Lord Chief Justice of *England*, on an Action brought by the said *Simons* against Mr. *Ashley*, for a Mistake in the Warrant on which the said Mr. *Ashley* caused him to be apprehended for the PERJURY of which he stood Indicted; where the said *Simons* obtained a Verdict against the said Mr. *Ashley* for 200*l.* Damages.

Fifth, At *Chelmsford Summer Assizes*, 1752, the said *Simons* was there tried a SECOND TIME for the same identical Crime, of which he was at the last *Lent Assizes* before Tried and Convicted.

† The Solicitor was no less a Person than *Philip Carteret Webb*, Esq; who solicited in Parliament the Jews Naturalization Bill, at which Time that Bill was in Agitation: Therefore it was RESOLVED upon, that no Money should be spared, nor any Means left unmade-use-of, to bring *Simons* off, at any Rate, because if SIMONS, who being a JEW, and stood CONVICTED, was to have a Sentence passed upon him—he put into the PILLORY, or otherwise punished, adequate to his horrid Crime, it might be a Means to obstruct the Success of that Bill.—Six of the most

eminent Counsel in the Kingdom were retained, many Consultations held, &c. some one or more of the most learned among them were dispatched, attended by a JEW of the highest Rank, to the Jurymen in *Essex*, who had found *Simons* GUILTY, on the most clear and unexceptionable Evidence of the most capital Misdemeanor known in our Laws (viz. for attempting by false Evidence to take away the Life of the Innocent) to obtain from the said Jurymen (who were all Gentlemen of great Estates) PROPER AFFIDAVITS to move the Court of *King's Bench* for a New Trial, which, after long Solicitation, very extraordinary Means made use of, and at a vast Expence, they were obtained (and such the most memorable and astonishing ever made.) See them and the Trial at large in *Ashley's* Case.

After such Affidavits obtained, the Court of *King's Bench* was moved for a New Trial, and no fewer than Nine Council were employed; the Hearing took up the Court several Days, and at last a New Trial granted. 'Twas a Precedent; a New Trial never before granted in *England*, to any Person who had been tried and convicted for a criminal Offence.

|| This *Simons* was more known, and more Notice taken of him, than any other of the *Polish* Begging Jews, by reason he, being very expert in Dancing, Tumbling, and Playing abundance of antic and slight-of-hand Tricks, which he used to exhibit in the publick Streets in all Places where he went, thereby raising Crouds of People about him, of whom he would beg. By this he was known to Thousands, by the Names of the *Tumbling Jew*, *Harry the Dancer*, or *Henry Simons*, the *Juggling Jew*.